

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 22 May 2000 (22.05.00);
original claims 1, 9 and 13 amended;
new claim 14 added; remaining claims unchanged (3 pages)]

1. A method for anesthetizing the bladder of a patient in need thereof, comprising the step of providing a sufficient quantity of a local anesthetic and an alkalinizing agent to the bladder of said patient to anesthetize the bladder, said local anesthetic being provided
5 as an aqueous solution, said alkalinizing agent being provided in sufficient quantity to raise the pH of the bladder to approximately the pKa of the local anesthetic to convert at least a portion of said local anesthetic to its base form.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said local anesthetic and said alkalinizing agent are provided to said bladder separately.
- 10 3. The method of claim 1 wherein said providing step is performed by instillation of said alkalinizing agent and said local anesthetic into the bladder by means selected from the group consisting of a catheter placed into the bladder via the urethra of said patient, and percutaneously through the abdominal wall of said patient.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein said local anesthetic is selected from the group
15 consisting of procaine, cocaine, chloroprocaine, tetracaine, mepivacaine, lidocaine, prilocaine, bupivacaine, etidiocaine, ropivacaine, and benzocaine.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein said alkalinizing agent is sodium bicarbonate.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said local anesthetic is lidocaine and said alkalinizing agent is sodium bicarbonate.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said alkalinizing agent provided in said providing step raises said pH of said bladder to about 8.

5 8. The method of claim 1 wherein said local anesthetic is provided in a sufficient concentration reduce bacterial infectants in said bladder of said patient.

9. A pharmaceutical combination for anesthetizing a patient's bladder comprising:

a sufficient quantity of a local anesthetic to anesthetize said patient's bladder; and

a sufficient quantity of an alkalinizing agent to raise the pH of said patient's

10 bladder to a level which causes the conversion of said local anesthetic to its base form, wherein said local anesthetic and said alkalinizing agent are positioned in a single-use, disposable syringe which maintains the local anesthetic and said alkalinizing agent separate until instilled in the bladder.

15 10. The pharmaceutical combination of claim 9 wherein said local anesthetic is selected from the group consisting of procaine, cocaine, chloroprocaine, tetracaine, mepivacaine, lidocaine, bupivacaine, etidiocaine, ropivacaine, and benzocaine.

11. The pharmaceutical combination of claim 9 wherein said alkalinizing agent is sodium bicarbonate.

12. The pharmaceutical combination of claim 9 wherein said local anesthetic is lidocaine and said alkalinizing agent is sodium bicarbonate.

5 13. The pharmaceutical combination of claim 9, wherein said sufficiently quantity of local anesthetic is 2 to 20 ml of 1-10% lidocaine, and wherein said sufficient quantity of alkalinizing agent is 5-50 ml of 2-20% sodium bicarbonate.

14. A method for treating interstitial cystitis, comprising the steps of periodically administering to a patient in need thereof a sufficient quantity of a local anesthetic and
10 an alkalinizing agent, said local anesthetic and alkalinizing agent being provided to the bladder of said patient to anesthetize the bladder, said local anesthetic being provided in an aqueous solution, said alkalinizing agent being provided in sufficient quantity to raise the pH of the bladder to approximately the pKa of the local anesthetic to convert at least a portion of said local anesthetic to its base form.

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I CLAIM:

1. A method for anesthetizing the bladder of a patient in need thereof, comprising the step of providing a sufficient quantity of a local anesthetic and an alkalinizing agent to the bladder of said patient to anesthetize the bladder, said local anesthetic being provided as an aqueous solution, said alkalinizing agent being provided in sufficient quantity to raise the pH of the bladder to approximately the pKa of the local anesthetic to convert at least a portion of said local anesthetic to its base form.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said local anesthetic and said alkalinizing agent are provided to said bladder separately.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said providing step is performed by instillation of said alkalinizing agent and said local anesthetic into the bladder by means selected from the group consisting of a catheter placed into the bladder via the urethra of said patient, and percutaneously through the abdominal wall of said patient.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said local anesthetic is selected from the group consisting of procaine, cocaine, chlorprocaine, tetracaine, mepivacaine, lidocaine, prilocaine, bupivacaine, etidiocaine, ropivacaine, and benzocaine.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said alkalinizing agent is sodium bicarbonate.

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6. The method of claim 1 wherein said local anesthetic is lidocaine and said alkalinizing agent is sodium bicarbonate.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein said alkalinizing agent provided in said providing step raises said pH of said bladder to about 8.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein said local anesthetic is provided in a sufficient concentration reduce bacterial infectants in said bladder of said patient.
9. A pharmaceutical combination for anesthetizing a patient's bladder comprising:
a sufficient quantity of a local anesthetic to anesthetize said patient's bladder; and
a sufficient quantity of an alkalinizing agent to raise the pH of said patient's bladder to a level which causes the conversion of said local anesthetic to its base form, wherein said local anesthetic and said alkalinizing agent are positioned in a single-use, disposable syringe which maintains the local anesthetic and said alkalinizing agent separate until instilled in the bladder.
10. The pharmaceutical combination of claim 9 wherein said local anesthetic is selected from the group consisting of procaine, cocaine, chloroprocaine, tetracaine, mepivacaine, lidocaine, bupivacaine, etidiocaine, ropivacaine, and benzocaine.

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11. The pharmaceutical combination of claim 9 wherein said alkalinizing agent is sodium bicarbonate.

12. The pharmaceutical combination of claim 9 wherein said local anesthetic is lidocaine and said alkalinizing agent is sodium bicarbonate.

5 13. The pharmaceutical combination of claim 9, wherein said sufficiently quantity of local anesthetic is 2 to 20 ml of 1-10% lidocaine, and wherein said sufficient quantity of alkalinizing agent is 5-50 ml of 2-20% sodium bicarbonate.

10 14. A method for treating interstitial cystitis, comprising the steps of periodically administering to a patient in need thereof a sufficient quantity of a local anesthetic and an alkalinizing agent, said local anesthetic and alkalinizing agent being provided to the bladder of said patient to anesthetize the bladder, said local anesthetic being provided in an aqueous solution, said alkalinizing agent being provided in sufficient quantity to raise the pH of the bladder to approximately the pKa of the local anesthetic to convert at least a portion of said local anesthetic to its base form.

AMENDED SHEET